

June 10, 2010

Ways and Means Committee  
United States House of Representatives

Reference: Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I will soon be joining the so called "99'ers" as my extended unemployment benefits will be used up this coming July. The hardships that we have endured thus far will not compare to those that we will have to endure in the months to come. There are those that have already started this journey and it is very disturbing that something of this magnitude can happen in the United States of America.

People are losing everything, their savings, retirement, and their houses. It is not because they chose this path, but are victims of this economy and the corrupt practices and greed of some individuals and corporations. They like me have worked long and hard to build something so that they could retire and support themselves and not rely on anyone else for more than anything they were entitled. This has all been taken away from us, along with our self esteem.

The majority of us would go to work at a moment's notice if there were jobs available to us. There are jobs available to some in certain disciplines, but the majorities are entry level, underpaid jobs meant for teenagers and college students. Those legitimate jobs are being filled by younger, less experienced individuals. They are passing over the more experienced workforce that built this country.

At this time we have lost or are about to lose our COBRA coverage and will have to find alternate health care at an exorbitant price. We cannot afford to take this on without help. The alternative is to drop health insurance altogether at which point someone else will have to pick up the costs for us, namely the government.

Please help us to survive this and initiate extended unemployment benefits so that we can hang on. Your help is desperately needed in this regard by members of your constituencies.

Respectfully,

John E. Storrie, Jr.